1. A solid ink melt assembly for use in a phase change printer, comprising:

a drip plate with first and second sides, wherein

a lower portion of the plate is shaped to form a drip point; and

a heater mounted to the first side of the plate,

wherein the second side of the drip plate is exposed to ink sticks for melting.

2. The melt assembly of claim 1 wherein the lower portion is not coplanar with an upper portion of the plate.

3. The melt assembly of claim 1 wherein the plate material is a nonferrous metal.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the plate material is aluminum.

5. The melt assembly of claim 1 wherein the heater is a closed loop heater.

6. The melt assembly of claim 1 wherein a flange is formed extending outward from a top edge of an upper portion of the drip plate.

7. The melt assembly of claim 1 wherein at least one formed flange extends outward from the second side along at least one side edge.

8. The melt assembly claim of 1 wherein a melt plate first side is affixed to the drip plate second side.

9. The melt assembly of claim 8, wherein the melt plate has a substantial void area on the mating surface affixed to the drip plate.

10. The melt assembly of claim 8 wherein the melt plate has interlocking tabs for alignment with the drip plate.

11. The melt assembly of claim 8 wherein a sliver strainer is formed to extend outward from a melt plate second side.

12. The melt assembly of claim 1 wherein each assembly is mounted to an ink loader with an individual adapter.

13. The melt assembly of claim 1 further comprising a retaining clip to prevent large scale separation of heater elements from the drip plate.

14. An ink loader for use in a phase change ink printer, comprising:

at least one channel having an entry end and an exit end; and

a melt assembly, which includes

a metallic drip plate with first and second sides, wherein the lower portion of the plate is shaped to form a drip point, and

a heater mounted to the first side.

15. The ink loader of claim 14 further comprising a melt plate having first and second sides,

wherein the first side of the melt plate is affixed to the second side of the drip plate, wherein

the drip plate has a formed strainer extending from the second side.

16. The ink loader of claim 14 wherein the heating element is a closed loop heater.

17. The ink loader of claim 14 wherein the drip point is not coplanar with the first and second sides.

18. The ink loader of claim 14 wherein the melt plate has formed flanges at the sides and top extending from the melt plate second side.

19. The ink loader of claim 14 wherein at least one of the drip plate and the melt plate is made from a non ferrous metal.

20. The ink loader of claim 14 wherein the melt plate has void area providing a substantial reduction in mass.

21. A phase change ink printer, comprising:

an ink loader for use in a phase change ink printer, comprising:

at least one channel having an entry end and an exit end; and

a melt assembly, which includes

a metallic drip plate with first and second sides, wherein the lower portion of the plate is shaped to form a drip point, and

a heater mounted to the first side.